

**Title:** Bearing the fruit of the Spirit as a standard for Christian life (bachelors thesis)

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## **Abstract**

The bachelor thesis “Bearing the fruit of the Spirit as a standard for Christian life” deals with the question, whether it is possible to use the fruit of the Spirit named by Paul in Galatians as a criterion for Christian ethics. Paul speaks about the fruit of the Spirit in the opposition to the work of flesh, as he defends the freedom of Christians from Jewish Law. That freedom could not be the excuse for wantonness, Christians should be guided by the Spirit and bear his fruit. The symbol of bearing the fruit is quite frequent both in the Old and New Testament. It signifies the outer display of the inner attitude and illustrates the necessity of simultaneous work of man and God’s grace. In the tradition of Church the topic has been handled since the beginning, in more detail in Augustin, Thomas Aquinas or Bonaventura. On the other hand, in large compendiums of moral theology the topic is seldom and only briefly treated. The encyclics *Veritatis splendor* and *Dominum et Vivificantem* and the document of the Pontifical Biblical Commission *The Bible and Morality* are leaving more space to it. The topic is also current because it contrasts with some nowadays temptations, such as too much accent on rules or complete denying of them, minimalistic Christianity or overemphasis of self progress and success. So the topic of the fruit of the Spirit is very useful for the moral theology.